



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Media Advisory

For immediate release:
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Virginians ready to take on their communities

AmeriCorps swearing in ceremony Oct. 18 kicks off year of volunteer service

Richmond – Interviews and photo opportunities are available for the following event:

- WHO:** Honorable Reverend Anderson Clary
Chairman, Governor's Commission on Community and National Service
- Franklin Wallace
Vice Chairman, Governor's Commission on Community and National Service
Director, AmeriCorps/America Reads, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Dr. Jarris L. Taylor, Jr.
Associate Director, William R. Harvey Leadership Institute/The Honors College,
Hampton University
- AmeriCorps members and staff
- WHAT:** Virginians ready to serve their communities as AmeriCorps members will be sworn in during a ceremony at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). The ceremony is held each fall to introduce new AmeriCorps members embarking on a year of service to the Commonwealth.
- For the first time, a Virginia AmeriCorps member will be honored with the first ever Robert E. Wone Award for Exemplary Service. Established in memory of Robert E. Wone, a former member of the Governor's Commission on Community and National Service, the award recognizes an AmeriCorps member who has exhibited outstanding civic engagement and community service.
- The winner is originally from Hampton and is a student at VCU.
- WHERE:** Virginia Commonwealth University's Student Commons
907 Floyd Avenue
Richmond, Virginia
- WHEN:** October 18, 2007

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

WHY: AmeriCorps is a network of service programs that connects more than 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country's critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award of up to \$4,725 that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans. Since 1994, more than **4,700** Virginia residents have qualified for AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than **\$17,200,000**.

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Editor's Note: For more information on AmeriCorps programs in Virginia, visit www.vaservice.org. To arrange interviews, contact Carla Harris at (804) 726-7107 or Kimberly Brown at (804) 726-7069.